

Years without accountability for Wall Street and Big Banks cost us 8 million jobs. With Russ Carnahan's support we now have tough, common sense rules of the road that will protect consumers and hold Wall Street accountable by:

- reining in Big Banks and their Big Bonuses,
- putting an end to bailouts and the idea of "too big to fail," and
- creating a consumer financial protection agency to protect and empower consumers to make the best decisions on homes, credit cards, and their own financial future.

THE MELTDOWN

For eight years, President Bush and Congressional Republicans looked the other way as Wall Street and the Big Banks exploited loopholes, gambled your money on complex schemes, and rewarded failure and recklessness. America's families and small businesses paid the price - we lost 8 million jobs and \$17 trillion in retirement savings and Americans' net worth.

TOUGH CHOICES

We have made tough choices and taken effective steps to bring our economy back from the brink of disaster. There is still a lot of work to be done - but by ending the era of taxpayer-funded bailouts and setting up common-sense rules to ensure Wall Street can no longer gamble with our savings, we have taken a big step forward toward restoring economic security and prosperity.

AMERICA LEADS

As we rebuild our economy, we must put in place common-sense rules to ensure Big Banks and Wall Street can never again play Russian Roulette with our futures. Wall Street may be bouncing back, but we know from experience they're not going to police themselves.

Common-sense reforms that hold Wall Street and the Big Banks accountable will:

- End bailouts by ensuring taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's risky decisions
- Protect families' retirement funds, college savings, homes and businesses' financial futures from unnecessary risk by CEOs, lenders, and speculators
- Protect consumers from predatory lending abuses, fine print, and industry gimmicks

- Inject transparency and accountability into a financial system run amok

WHAT'S IN THE LEGISLATION?

- **Creating a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to protect families and small businesses by ensuring that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards are fair, affordable, understandable, and transparent.**

We currently have rules that keep companies from selling us toasters that burn down our homes. We should have similar rules that bar the financial industry from offering mortgage loans to people who can't afford repayment.

- **Ending predatory lending practices** that occurred during the subprime lending frenzy.
- **Shutting down "too big to fail" financial firms** before risky and irresponsible behavior threatens to bring down the entire economy.

- **Ending costly taxpayer bailouts** with new procedures to unwind failing companies that pose the greatest risk - paid for by the financial industry and not the taxpayers.

- **Tough new rules on the riskiest financial practices** that gambled with your money and caused the financial crash, like the credit default swaps that devastated AIG, and common sense regulation of derivatives and other complex financial products. Includes a strong "Volcker rule" that generally restricts large financial firms with commercial banking operations from trading in speculative investments.

- **Tough enforcement and oversight** with:
 - More enforcement power and funding for the **Securities and Exchange Commission**, including requiring registration of hedge funds and private equity funds

- Enhanced oversight and transparency for **credit rating agencies**, whose seal of approval gave way to excessively risky practices that led to a financial collapse

- **Reining in egregious executive compensation and retirement plans** by allowing a 'say on pay' for shareholders, requiring independent directors on compensation committees, and limiting bank executive risky pay practices that jeopardize banks' safety and soundness.

- **New protections for grocers, retailers and other small businesses** facing out-of-control swipe fees that banks and other credit and debit card issuers charge these businesses for debit or prepaid-card purchases. As a result, merchants stand to save billions.

- **Audits the Federal Reserve's emergency lending programs** from the financial crisis and limits the Fed's emergency lending authority.